



WESTPORT Class Of 1957 FRIENDS

The Westport Gals invite you to join us in adopting a needy family for Christmas.

Aware of the generous nature of the Class of '57, we are certain that many of you reach out within your own communities to help those in need, especially during the holidays. Perhaps many of you remember how, as students at WHS, we would eagerly anticipate the annual Christmas program held on the school stage, prior to the Christmas Tiger Den, when we would gather in the auditorium to welcome children from a neighboring, Catholic orphanage. They were seated on the stage, which was decorated with a large tree, and joined us in singing carols before one of our faculty members, dressed as Santa, distributed gifts. Funds to purchase the gifts were raised through the generosity of our students and purchased by our Student Council. Perhaps our generosity stemmed from our parents who had taught us to reach out to those less fortunate than ourselves; regardless, most of us probably recall how our hearts were lighter as a result of those gifts to children in need.

It was in that spirit, last Christmas, that the Westport Gals decided to seek a family in need, one to whom we could make a donation that would lighten their financial burden during the holiday season. With the help of Linda Bethke Hunter and her church, we were able to identify a family: a single mother who, while battling cancer, was struggling to support her three children. During our annual Christmas luncheon, twenty-two Westport Gals donated \$350.00 to this family.

This year, with our annual, holiday luncheon approaching, we sadly learned that, last spring, the mother had lost her fight with cancer and that her brother, his wife and their two children had lovingly offered a home to her three, orphaned children. Consequently, we have decided to continue helping this blended family of seven members, the parents and five children: one freshman in college, three in high school and one in middle school. Since most of us are retired and living on fixed incomes, we fully understand that the dire economy has forced us to "cinch our already-tight belts." However, we also have faith that Westporters, from primarily middle-income families, still care about those less fortunate.

With that said, we have decided to expand our fund-raising effort, this year, to include our friends in the Class of '57 and to appeal to each of you to join us in opening your hearts and billfolds this holiday season. If you would like to assist us by donating to this worthy family, you may do so by sending a check (any amount would help), payable to Donna Dodds Haas, who served as treasurer for our last reunion and has graciously offered to conduct this business for us, by December 1st.

**Donna Dodds Haas
11013 Rene
Lenexa, KS 66215**

We wish all of our dear friends a wonderful holiday season and thank you for considering our plea on behalf of this family.

Warmest regards, The Class of '57 Westport Gals